Learning to Welcome the Stranger

Walk Your Streets: Take time to get to know your neighbors and your neighborhood. Pay close attention to those who you may not normally notice.

Make an Invitation: Share a meal with someone you do not know well. Learn about their culture and family history. Find out what you have in common and what unique gifts you can share.

Ask Questions: Learn more about who has immigrated to your community and why. Then ask how your church community can welcome and serve these newer community members.

Freely Serve: Volunteer at your local church or at a community-based organization that serves people who have immigrated. Make this a chance to get to know people with whom you don’t normally interact.

Freely Receive: As you get to know people who have immigrated, let them share their gifts and talents with you. Be prepared to grow and change as God works through these relationships.

Open the Doors of the Church: Plan an event to welcome people through your doors, and gather a group to go out those same doors to participate in community events. Use these experiences to make lasting connections between your congregation and nearby immigrant communities.

Pray for People on the Move: Ask God to help you see people the way that God sees them. As you do, be ready and willing for God to break your heart and change your life.